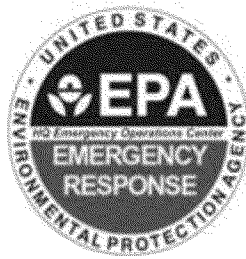


From: Eoc, Epahq
Sent: Tue 1/14/2014 6:18:55 PM
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #10

This report is being sent as a bcc to prevent accidental Reply to All messages.

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #10

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of 1300 January 14, 2014

Overview: On January 10, the President approved an Emergency Declaration for the State of West Virginia after a chemical leaked at a Freedom Industries chemical plant and into the Elk River in Charleston, WV. The spill occurred near the Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant which detected the chemical even after an increased carbon treatment effort was put in place. Freedom Industries is working to clean up the spill at the facility and in the river.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: West Virginia water authorities have issued a

“Do Not Use Water Notice” for 10 counties and the President’s Emergency Declaration covers eight counties. West Virginia American Water (WVAW) customers are told not to use tap water for drinking, cooking, washing, or bathing. Water can be used for toilets and fire emergencies. This is believed to impact 100,000 customers (300,000 people).

As of this morning customers in the four zones of the water distribution system in the immediate Charleston area and two additional zones just beyond were asked to flush their premise plumbing according to explicit instructions posted on the WVAWC website:

<http://www.amwater.com/wvaw/about-us/news.html>.

Sampling continues, moving outward into the distribution system, with samples being sent to multiple labs. At this time, nine GC/MS units are being employed to process the hundreds of samples. As the results from the zones show concentrations of MCHM less than 1 ppm, these zones are “cleared” for unrestricted use by customers (after customers follow instructions for flushing their premise plumbing).

ORSANCO (Ohio River Sanitation Commission) has been monitoring water concentrations to determine persistence of the MCHM plume in the Elk-Kanawha-Ohio drainage. There is not yet access to hard data, although it is understood that concentrations below the confluence of the Kanawha and Ohio are all < 0.5 ppm. ORSANCO has also used river modeling to forecast the arrival time of any residual plume at locations downstream: <http://www.orsanco.org/february-2013-technical-and-commission-meetings/347-new-how-will-the-elk-river-spill-affect-the-cincinnati-area> .

Personnel from the facility, USCG, WVDEP, CSB, EPA, and the Attorney General’s office were present at this morning meeting. The discussion was centered on preserving evidence for CSB’s investigation. It was reported that the contractor found a hole, approximately the size of a quarter, in the bottom of the tank that breached. The facility’s accounting department is working with past inventory and the volume of chemical that has been transported off site to more accurately estimate the size of the release.

As the volume of water near the storm water pipe is increasing, some thought that water is originating from an additional source. No odor was present, nor was sheen observed. WVDEP conducted a field test and detected chlorine in the water. The water department subsequently detected fluorine in the water, so the water department shut off a valve, which diminished the flow in the storm water drain area. Testing of this water will be conducted and an engineering

plan will be used to construct a “directional ditch” to move this water directly into the river. WVDEP, USCG, and EPA will approve the plan and determine the discharge point into the river. Wells were punched into the ground every 10 yards in the area of the proposed directional ditch; no odor was detected in the soil and samples were sent for analysis.

The facility is continuing a river sampling program with analytical results expected by tomorrow. There are no reports of any fish kill or significant issues with aquatic life in the Elk River.

WVDEP and USCG agreed to remove the hard boom that extends across the entire river, and the boom located outside the water intake at the WVAWC. However, hard boom with interior absorbent boom will remain along the shoreline adjacent to the facility.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has sought information from WV American on their discharges from flushing, presumably because of Threatened and Endangered species concerns. It is understood from WV DHHR that WVAWC has dechlorinated any water flushed out of their system.

Senator Rockefeller has made a request to both EPA and ATSDR/CDC to conduct a joint study of the long-term public health effects of MCHM.

EPA Actions: Two Region 3 OSCs reported that throughout the night, the facility’s contractor continued to pump water from the containment area into trucks. The contractor will continue this operation as long as the rain and run-off water continues to collect in the containment area. The contractor will extend the liner in the trench area at the base of the facility, located adjacent to the river. Water will also continue to be pumped out of this area into tanker trucks.

Media Interest: High

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed.

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Tim Grier, Watch Officer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

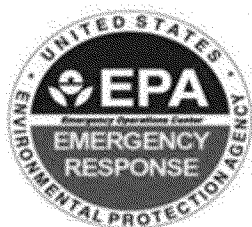
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center

1200 Pennsylvania Ave

Washington, DC 20004

202-564-3850 202-564-8729 (fax)

<mailto:eoc.epahq@epa.gov>



Watch Officer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Headquarters Emergency Operations Center

1200 Pennsylvania Ave

Washington, DC 20004

202-564-3850 202-564-8729 (fax)

<mailto:eoc.epahq@epa.gov>

